

# Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

## March 15, 2023

### 1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:30 am. Committee Members Matt Foelker (Chair) (UW), Walt Christensen (Vice-Chair), Dan Herbst (UW), Cassie Richardson, Meg Turville-Heitz (via Zoom), Kirsten Jurcek (FSA), and Margaret Burlingham (PACE), were present. Also in attendance were Patricia Cicero, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Sam Peterson, LWCD; and Joe Strupp, LWCD.

- Others in Attendance: Dean Weichmann, Jefferson County Soil Builders, and Anita Martin

### 2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

### 3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

### 4. Review of the March Agenda:

The March agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

### 5. Approval of the February 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Herbst made a motion to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes as written, Christensen seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

### 7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection March 2023 Report.

### 8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS did not attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

### 9. Introduction of Sam Peterson, the New Jefferson County Resource Conservationist:

Peterson introduced himself to the committee and gave an overview of his education and experience.

### 10. Discussion on Departmental Updates:

Cicero is performing staff annual reviews. Marisa Wieder is contacting landowners on Rock Lake that had shoreland erosion to offer assistance and expertise. The landowners were identified during the shoreland & shallows survey Wieder completed in 2022.

### 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution for an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Watertown to Provide Water Quality Trading Technical Services:

Cicero outlined the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Watertown. Richardson made a motion to approve the resolution and agreement, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

### 12. Discussion on Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Funding and Conservation Practice Implementation:

Cicero outlined the MDV program and discussed some of the conservation practices that may be implemented this year. Cicero also gave a summary of the MDV funds received and anticipated in 2023.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Offering Water Testing at the Jefferson County Fair:**

Cicero spoke with Manitowoc County LWCD regarding nitrate testing they offer throughout the year to understand their process. The probe will cost roughly \$4,000 along with the consumables needed yearly for testing. A discussion followed. Christensen made a motion to instruct the LWCD to investigate the costs involved with offering nitrate testing, Turville-Heights seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**14. Discussion on Producer-Led Groups: Jefferson County Soil Builders (JCSB) & Rock River Regenerative Graziers (R3G):** JCSB has appointed a Board of Directors with Weichmann as chair, and Karl Hundt as Vice-Chair. JCSB have started planning for 2023. JCSB and R3G will have a rainfall simulator at the June Brew with a View. R3G is planning to expand their cost share program in this year.

**15. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**

There are no notices.

**16. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:**

There are no cancellations.

**17. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour:**

The tour is May 3, 2023, 8:30 - 2:30. Christensen, Turville-Heitz, and Weichmann plan to participate. Cicero will check with LWCD to see if someone can assist. Richardson will check with Jefferson High School FFA to see if any students are available to help.

**18. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications & Baseline Documentation:**

The Cummings application is moving forward. The next step is a title search. Jurcek made a motion to order a title search for the Cummings property, Burlingham seconded. Motion passed 7/0. The Rollefson application is also moving forward. Two people have been in contact with LWCD regarding the PACE program.

**19. Discussion and Possible Action on Funding for PACE from the Sale of County-Owned Farmland:**

The Committee discussed Resolution No. 2008-15. Christensen made a motion to approach the Finance Committee regarding this resolution and the money received for farmland sales in the future, Richardson seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

**20. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (January):**

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures was distributed.

**21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Possible agenda items include: Fourth Grade Farm Tour, Funding for PACE from the Sale of County-Owned Farmland.

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** April 19, 2023 @ 8:30 in the Highway Committee Room.

**22. Adjournment:**

Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 am, Herbst seconded. Motion passed 7/0.

Committee member Kirsten Jurcek has been appointed to serve on this committee due to her status as the designated Farm Service Agency committee member. All her opinions and votes are as a member of the public and as a producer/farmer, not as a representative of the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, or Federal Government.

*Kim Liakopoulos*  
*Administrative Specialist I ~ LWCD*